

1 July 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Inspection of Hillside Class V Cabinets
22 thru 28 June 1970

A total of 55 cabinets were inspected.

Purpose of Inspection: To determine the condition and availability of the 55 cabinets which were sent to the [redacted] for reshipment, by Hillside Metal Products, namely Class V security cabinets.

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Persons contacted: Mr [redacted]
Mr. Joe Lawless, QCR, GSA
Mr. Baines, Region 9, West Coast Area, GSA

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Upon my arrival at the GSA Depot in South San Francisco on 22 June, where the cabinets had been sent from the [redacted] I contacted Mr. Lawless from the Washington office of GSA Quality Control. It was ascertained that Mr. Lawless had been experiencing difficulty with various stages of his quality control inspection and that the Hillside mechanics who had been there two weeks prior to 22 June were in the process of adjusting and repairing numerous discrepancies in the cabinets. The following remarks are some of the typical discrepancies that occurred, and in a forthcoming report by Mr. Lawless, which will be more detailed, a more complete and concise account of these discrepancies will be given.

Drawer pulls: Many drawer pulls were loose and bent, even before I had started my inspection. These were supposed to have been corrected the week previous to my arrival.

Drawers: 60% of the drawers would not pass the 10 lb. pull test on the mechanical force gauge. This also was supposed to have been checked and corrected prior to my arrival.

Dial spindles: 85% of the dial threaded spindles were too short, showing only about 2 or 3 threads caught or made up into the drive cam. This negated a good bind when the spline key was driven in.

Drawer facings: Many of the drawer facings which house the drawer pulls and thumb latches were tack welded at the bottom corners which made it necessary to chisel away the welds to get the drawer facing to come off for replacement of either the latch or the pull. Incidentally, this would be a tedious job in the field without specialized equipment.

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SUBJECT: Inspection of Hillside Class V Cabinets

Pull back springs: The pull back springs on all of the control drawer bolts were mounted in the wrong position, most were corrected by Mr. Lawless and myself.

Thumb latches: About 40% of the thumb latches presented a problem in that they would not hold or had a definite bind when an attempt to release them was made.

Warped drawer heads: About 8 or 10 drawer heads were warped and had to be corrected by the Hillside mechanics.

Locking bars (left and right sides): About 50% of the locking bar pivot (bottom) positions in the cabinet were lacking proper lubrication and contained weld slag.

Weld build up: Weld build up on the bottom of the front welded plates of some of the bottom drawers was so great that it caused the suspensions to be forced upward as the drawer came to a full open position.

Suspensions: Actually this was the only part of the discrepancies that was corrected prior to my arrival. All of the old light rollers were ground out of the suspensions and new ballbearing type were reinstalled. The major portion of the Hillside mechanic's time was taken up with this operation.

On 23 June, new dials and spindles were ordered from Sargent and Greenleaf, and they were flown in on 24 June. These new spindles were found to be 1/4" too long. The Hillside mechanics worked after hours in their motel room so that they could cut off these spindles to the desired length ready to start on the job on the morning of 25 June. It was hoped that with the two mechanics from Hillside and myself also helping, we could get a large part of the new spindles installed, but as it turned out only one Hillside mechanic could work on the spindle project due to the fact that all of the other problems in the cabinets still were not corrected. These were the problems pointed out by Mr. Lawless. Permission was requested through Mr. Baines, GSA Region 9, to enable the mechanics to work Saturday, 27 June, as it was quite apparent that we were not going to be able to wrap up the job on 26 June as planned. On Saturday, 27 June, at approximately 3:30 P.M., all the spindles were reinstalled and all the other discrepancies were corrected, and all activities were terminated at this point.

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Recommendation: It is recommended that due to all the noted discrepancies and the problems involved in trying to exchange drawer heads or drawers in the field, and because of the initial poor workmanship and plant quality control, these 60 Hillside Class V cabinets (5 here at 903) not be sent overseas. It at all possible, request should be made to GSA to return the cabinets for credit. Also, that any future procurement of Class V Hillside cabinets not be undertaken until it is ascertained by GSA and the Agency representative that future cabinets prove satisfactory for our needs.

Mr. Lawless, GSA Quality Control, was not present for final check of the cabinets on 27 June as he was recalled for a meeting in Washington on 26 June 1970.

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[Redacted]
Technical Inspector

This office wholeheartedly concurs with the recommendation of Mr. [Redacted]. Further, as technical office for approving issuance of safekeeping equipment for overseas use, this office will not approve the issue of Hillside Class 6 safes overseas, as there is no capability to repair or service them.

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[Redacted]
(Acting Chief
Physical Security Technology Branch)